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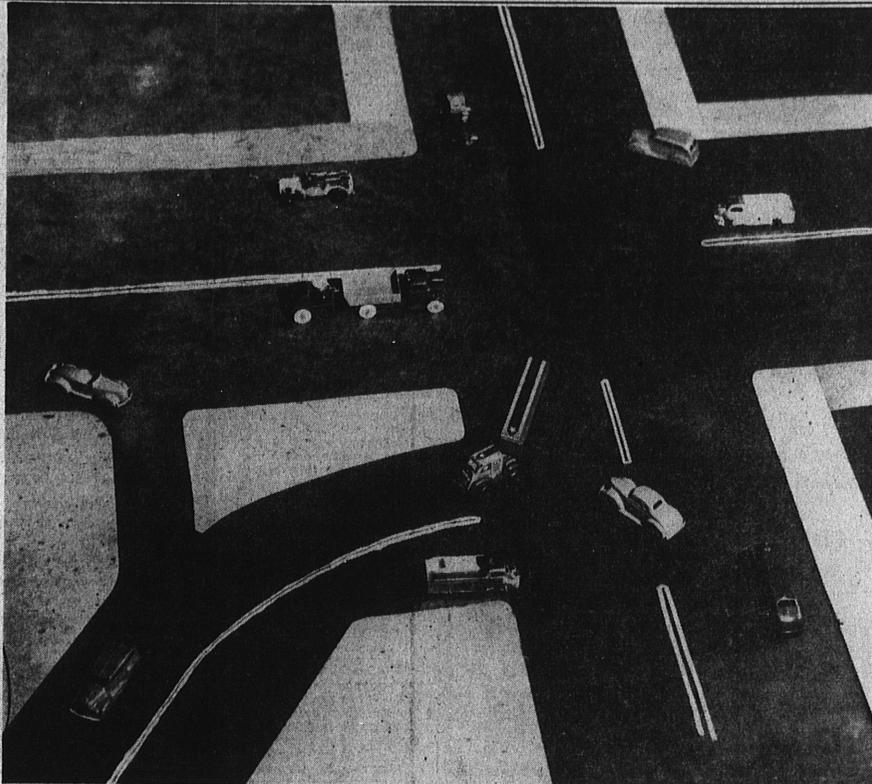
BID CALL ON ARMORY DUE NEXT MONTH

Indications that construction of Torrance's new armory may be started during January were seen today when it was learned that bids will be sought shortly after New Year's for seven more armories in Southern California. The information, obtained from Maj. Gen. Curtis D. O'Sullivan, adjutant general of California, followed the awarding of contracts for six new National Guard armories in the Southland.

Torrance undoubtedly will be among the next seven for Southern California, it was indicated. In addition, bids will be sought next month for 10 more Guard armories in the northern part of the state.

The armories for which the contracts were awarded this week are for batteries of the 114th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade at Compton, Lynwood and Vista; for a cannon company of the 224th Infantry at Monrovia, and for Battery B of the 980th Field Artillery Battalion at Azusa.

Haddock Engineering Company of Los Angeles was awarded all six contracts for approximately \$75,000 each. Terms call for completion of the jobs within 125 working days. Except for an armory started in North Sacramento Saturday these are the finest approved for construction since before World War II.



SOLUTION OFFERED—Prepared by the editorial staff of The Herald, this model of Five-Points intersection shows proposed method of eliminating confusion now existing at the ill-famed junction. View is east paralleling Carson street and shows raised "island" which would separate traffic on Cabrillo avenue and Cravens avenue (lower left corner). — Model-graph by Torrance Herald

Slow-Up of Trains Promised

Torrance city officials today have the promise of the Santa Fe Railway that speed will be reduced on the Madrid avenue section of their line through Torrance and that operations will be policed by the road's chief engineer.

In consideration of this, the City Council has tentatively agreed to grant a 60-day continuance before calling up the new city ordinance regulating train speeds for its second and final reading.

Top officials of the railway who attended an informal conference with the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce directors Monday afternoon also were advised that the city wants a corridor of residential income development along Torrance boulevard, between Crenshaw boulevard and the Redondo Beach city limits.

None of the officials, who included F. A. Baker, assistant general manager of the company, expressed any opposition to the city's proposal, when R. W. Walker, general attorney for the road, reviewed the main points of contention between the city and the railroad.

Walker in opening the discussion with the city and chamber officials said the proposed new train ordinance which was to come up for its second reading next Tuesday would "practically put us out of the railroad business."

Councilman Nick Drake said he felt that the city had a just grievance, because residents along Madrid avenue complained of excessive speed, excessive rattling and vibration that caused the plaster in their houses to crack, and also operating violations.

From the Santa Fe "brass," city officials drew the admission that no specific checks had been made on speed of their trains, although the city had complained of this previously.

"We'll see that there is a check on the speed, and we'll police this run," said J. P. Donovan, superintendent. The city has asked that the speed be kept to 10 miles an hour.

Drake also reminded the Santa Fe officials that the new Nativity School on Carson street has resulted in more children using the Carson street crossing, and that standing trains cause ways to operate, with the result that the pupils are afraid to cross the tracks.

Answering complaints that fumes from Diesel engines are making residents along Madrid ill, Santa Fe officials denied this allegation.

Other Santa Fe officials attending the hearing were M. C. Blanchard, chief engineer; Charles Connolly, engineer; Roy Hunt, fuel supervisor; Robert Hirst, freight traffic manager and John Balluff, attorney—a total of eight.

Guttenfelder, 2 Others Get Zone Variances

Petition of Harvel Guttenfelder for a zoning variance that will permit operation of an automobile sales and service garage at 1530 Cravens avenue has been granted by the Torrance City Planning Commission and approved by the City Council.

A zoning variance also has been granted George and Ruth P. Davis to permit construction of a duplex on the property at 2518-20 West Carson street, between Date street and Crenshaw boulevard.

Petition of Howard E. Young for a zoning variance also has been granted, permitting establishment of a retail lumber yard and building material business on Redondo Beach boulevard between Roslin street and Prairie avenue.

The Planning Commission also has placed the property at the northwest corner of Crenshaw boulevard and 174th street in a commercial zone. It is owned by Southwest Properties, and is adjacent to the new Crenshaw Crest subdivision.



CITY'S FINEST TREE—Outstanding in Christmas decorations at Torrance industrial plants is this perfect specimen which stands in front of the executive offices of the National Supply Company. The tree at National's plant is an old custom, but like the yule decorations in many Torrance homes and on many lawns, this year's tree is the finest ever displayed.

Kids Invited to Optimists' Party Friday

All the kids in town are invited to the Torrance Optimist Club's Christmas show at the Grand Theater Friday, the day before Christmas, at 1 and 3 p.m., when special programs will be given through cooperation of Jack Dabbs, manager.

Admission is one old toy, to be turned in at the lobby to the Junior Optimist Club, which will renovate the toy, using professional toymaking equipment, during the coming year.

Next Christmas the toy, with perhaps a few gimmicks added, will be given to some underprivileged child in the community.

Henry Watkins of the Beacon Cleaners will act as master of ceremonies at the theater party, according to Boris Woolley, local attorney and president of the club. A Western movie, lots of cartoons and stage interviews will be features of the special show.

Bogus Checks in Circulation

More than \$2000 in bogus Todd shipyard checks drawn on Security First National were cashed during the weekend in the harbor area, it was learned today. The check cashers may attempt to cash more of the fictitious checks, according to a warning issued last night.



GOODWILL TOWARD NEIGHBORS—This scene will be repeated in 10 homes in the community Thursday night as members of the Rotary Club distribute baskets of food and toys worth from \$25 to \$40 to families whose circumstances might mean that Christmas would just be another day. Dr. Arthur Berke, project chairman, is holding one of the baskets. (Herald Photo).

Always Happens! 5-Day Week Has Shortest Days!

It will happen every time! On the day that the Torrance Herald goes to press a day early—and thereby attempts to cram into five days the normal six days' work of publishing a newspaper, it turns out that yesterday—Tuesday Dec. 21, was the shortest day of the year.

Rotarians to Give Out Toys, Food Baskets

Christmas baskets laden with food and toys will be distributed to 10 needy families in the community Thursday night by members of the Torrance Rotary Club, it was revealed yesterday by Dr. Arthur Berke, local dentist who has championed the cause of Christmas giving in the local service club.

Dr. Berke said the families had been thoroughly investigated by members of the club before being placed on the list of those who will receive one of the baskets, valued at from \$25 to \$40 each.

Every basket will contain a toy for each child in the family, Dr. Berke said.

Dr. John W. Beeman, president of the Rotarians, announced that the usual meeting scheduled for Thursday night would be clipped short in order to allow the 10 committees time to distribute their gift baskets.

Three More Subdivisions Ready to Go

Final tract maps for three new subdivisions in Torrance have been approved by the City Planning Commission and construction of 114 new dwellings is now scheduled to begin early in January, it was learned yesterday.

Ben R. Haggott, developer of Seaside Ranches, plans to start another group of 40 homes of similar type and construction in his Unit No. 2. The tract maps show the lots to be from 80 to 82 feet wide, and from 140 to 150 feet deep, all fronting on an extension of Sharynne Lane 1314 feet easterly of Linda drive, the easterly boundary street of his Unit No. 1.

Two other maps involve 85 lots in two tracts handled as a single unit, adjacent to Arlington avenue and lying between 164th and 166th streets, near the north city limits.

Still another tract shows 49 lots at the southwesterly corner of Prairie avenue and Redondo Beach boulevard, extending for 1422 feet along the latter artery. These lots are shown as 50 by 100 feet on Redondo Beach and 60 by 100 on Prairie avenue.

More Orderly Plan for Five Points Sought

Tentative approval of a compromise plan for a more orderly channelling of traffic at Five Points has been given by the Torrance City Council.

To show how the city's proposal would work out in practice, the Herald editorial staff constructed a model of the five-point intersection and obtained toy autos and trucks to indicate the flow of traffic under all possible conditions.

Study of the complicated intersection was made recently by engineers of the Auto Club of Southern California, and Chief Engineer E. A. East submitted two possible plans. The model incorporates some of the club's ideas, and also some ideas of City Engineer George Stevens and members of the City Council, who discussed it in a recent agenda meeting.

Next Issue of Herald Will Be Out Day Early

Continuing its Yuletide schedule, the next issue of the Herald will be distributed on Wednesday morning, Dec. 23.

Distributors and news carriers are requested to report for their papers at the usual distributing points on Wednesday instead of Thursday next week.

Advertisers and news correspondents are requested to advance the customary time for a submitting copy ONE FULL DAY.

Classified advertising will close at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27.

The usual Thursday morning issue will be resumed on Jan. 6.

All departments of the newspaper will be closed all day Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, so that employees may enjoy a well-earned three-day Christmas holiday.

WM Batting Below Par in Rain Business

Wondering whether the recent rain had brought the season's total anywhere near normal we asked the Weather Man what information he could shed on the subject.

"The only thing normal about California weather is that it is only normal when it is unusual enough to be abnormal," was his retort.

Recent rain which fell on Dec. 17 brought 1.34 inches of rain. This brought the season's total to 1.59 inches and comparing it with a record of three previous years it shows up like this:

Year	Season Total
1947	1.77
1946	1.59
1945	1.32

It's also been a bit cool, the WM admitted:

Day	Maximum	Minimum
15	80	33
16	87	33
17	89	42
18	84	38
19	86	42
20	83	36

Painting Bids Vary Widely

Bids ranging from \$1388 up to \$4250 for repainting the Torrance Civic Auditorium, the Chamber of Commerce building, the City Library and the Hill street municipal bus terminal in Los Angeles were taken under advisement by the City Council Tuesday night.

Acme Painting and Sandblasting Company was low bidder. The contract is to be awarded at the next meeting.

Till Robbed as He Eats Lunch

While he ate lunch someone rifled the cash register at a service station at 2172 Torrance boulevard and stole \$116 in cash and \$76 in checks, according to a report filed with Torrance police earlier this week by C. R. Flagg, owner of the station.

Business as Usual

McCown Stores Reopen After Misunderstanding Over Wage

Due to a misunderstanding in the interpretation of a contract regarding wages of part-time employees, four McCown drug

stores were closed for one hour and 35 minutes yesterday afternoon.

Although the dispute arose over wages paid a high school boy working at the McCown store at Western avenue and Highway 101, Lomita, the picketing reached into Torrance where the store at 1334 E. Prado drew "closed" curtains across the windows while a settlement of the misunderstanding was negotiated.

Two stores in Lomita, the Torrance store and one in Gardena were picketed during the time the stores were closed.

Point of the misunderstanding arose over the difference between 50 cents per hour and 81 cents per hour paid to a Lomita high school youth who was working on a part-time basis.

At the time of this action Al McCown, president of McCown Drug Stores, was out to lunch. Upon returning he learned of the stores' closing and agreed to increase the hourly rate of the boy to the higher rate.

The stores reopened at 3:45 p.m.

ASSEMBLYMAN ILL
Assemblyman Vincent Thomas is confined to his home, 1221 Sunnyside drive, San Pedro, by illness.

Hoodlums

Entire Dashboard Taken from New Car; Rental Film Stolen

For the second time in two years—both times during the Christmas holidays, Officer Swayne Johnson has had his automobile ransacked by hoodlums.

Johnson, a member of the Torrance Police Department, was on the answering end of an investigation rather than the questioning and Monday night as he reported to Redondo Police that the dashboard of his two-week-old new car was ripped out while his wife attended a meeting in Redondo Beach. Last year someone ransacked the officer's car causing a loss of approximately \$60 to the owner.

Mrs. Laddie Johnson, wife of the officer, had little trouble in filing the initial report as she was accompanied

by Miss Lucille Stroh, Torrance police matron, at the time of the theft.

Supposedly at the same time, during a meeting of the Business and Professional Women of Torrance who were gathered at Iron's Cottage in the beach city, two other cars were broken into.

Mrs. Daisy Gilmore, owner of the A-I Photo Supply Service, reported to police that a rental motion picture film valued at \$300 and a \$35 projector were missing from her car.

Mrs. Arvilla Owen, former chief telephone operator in Torrance, reported that her car also was entered but that she could find nothing missing.

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